

WITH THE BEANVILLE NATIVES.

Speaker Challenges Anyone to Show Wherein it is More Just to Charge Rent for Land than for Air or Water.

The natives were becoming interested in the speeches in the old time way. They were sore over the defeat of Farmer Smith for county judge, and, after Mr. Hatter's explanation of how "the party" puts out dummy candidates in order to let its men in, the natives could see the part that Farmer Jones played in urging Farmer Smith to become a candidate. When the speaker arrived the school house was well filled. He began:

"I believe I made it plain to you last week that the owners of the land and machinery who do not use it themselves are useless—worse than useless. They not only do no useful work, but they who do useful work must support them in luxurious idleness. As explained last week, it doesn't matter whether they are insane, or infants, their income is just the same. All they need is the paper titles—man-made titles—to the land and tools and they can dictate the terms on which others may live."

"The grand-sons of Marshall Field are both little children, yet the law compels the thousands of workers who use the things that the grand-father left to these children to pay them one hundred thousand dollars per week! And they tell us that this is a land of equal opportunity! What chance has your grand-child to inherit an income of \$100,000 per week?"

"The monopolization of land is the most serious blow to the masses. So long as the people can get to the land they can produce enough to live comfortably, but when the landlord waves a paper title and says: 'You can't use God's earth unless you give me a third or half of what you produce,' it is different."

"I challenge any person—and especially the ministry—to point out where there is any more justice in the taking of tribute or rent for the use of land than for the use of air or water! Man cannot live without either, and if it is right that some men should pay others for the use of one, why not all? All are gifts of nature and were not created by man. Nor has any man a title to either from the Creator."

"The courts have held that the water on the land belongs to the land, as does also the mineral and oil deposits underneath. Eastern courts have held that the man who holds title to land is also master of the air or space right overhead. This, in effect, means that land, air and water may be privately owned. And these decisions are consistent. If it is right that a man may charge for the use of land, he also has a right to charge you for the use of the air you breathe. Rattle this around in your head as you see fit, and if you can give me any sensible reason why one man should pay another for the use of one and not the other, I'll give you a new hat."

Here my red-nosed friend over in the corner, who evidently had not consumed all of his election kick, burst in with: "Spouse I got a right from the government to go in the woods and carve out a farm, and I do it, haint that as plain and can't I do with it as I please? Hand over that hat!"

"What size do you wear?"

"Six and a quarter."

"I thought so. What did you have to do with putting the land there? What did your government from whom you got it have to do with putting it there? This government either took the land by force, or bought it from those who had taken it by force. In either case the title was the same as would be your title to my pocket-book if you held me up and took it. And time, nor law, nor custom does not make a wrong right."

"Under just conditions you would be entitled to the possession of the land you had made productive so long as you wanted it. You would be more secure in your holdings than is the owner of land today, for that 'incentive' to get what the other fellow has would not be so great. If you wanted to sell out, or move, you could do so. You could sell all the value your labor had added to the land—the improvements—but not the land. You didn't make that, and you have no moral right to ask pay for it."

"You overlook the fact that the basic title to all the land is with the whole people even under the present system. If public necessity demands the taking of any piece of land, it is taken. A land title, even today, is subject to the public needs. If land be needed for a

road, a school house or any public use, it can be taken—no matter how seriously the holder of the title may object. It is because railroads are regarded as public carriers that railroads can condemn your land."

"In fact, all holders of titles are today only renters of the state—the public. We hold possession so long as we pay the rent, or tax, demanded by the state. When we fail to pay that rent or tax, the state takes the land from us and sells it to someone who is willing to pay. If no one is found who is willing to pay, the state keeps the land. Hence the only change necessary to bring about just conditions would be the wiping out of the middlemen—the landlords. Let the land be for those who use it instead of for those who compel the users to divide up with them."

"The man who has gone into the woods and, by his labor, carved out a farm, is entitled to his just reward. But such a man has not much land. He isn't hunting anybody. The day of carving out farms has about disappeared. Often I hear old men say, 'Let our boys do as we did.' But the boys can't. When these men were young they could homestead 160 or 320 acres without scarcely any money. All they needed was strength. If they didn't care to take land from the government they could buy wild or cleared land for a few dollars per acre and pay for it from their labor. But let a young man now try to buy even forty acres and try to pay for it with his labor and see what happens. If he gets anything like desirable land it will cost him fifty dollars per acre, or \$2,000 for the forty. On this the interest at 8% would be \$160, or \$4 per acre—just what the rent would be. So it doesn't matter whether he pays rent or interest."

Not long ago Tom Hawkins, of near Commerce, was in my office. When Tom dies he won't be happy if he goes to heaven. He wants to go straight to Republican headquarters. He is 66 years old and lives on the place he was born. He was telling me how well he had managed and that it was their own fault if people didn't get along. He said he always got along—that he had 160 acres of land and money in the bank. He has nine children—less than twenty acres for each. He is a jovial fellow and pleasant to be with. After he had relieved himself considerably about Republican prosperity I asked: 'What did you pay for the home place?'

"I paid \$5 an acre. I was born there and have been off the place only six years during my life."

"You paid for it from the products of the farm?"

"Yes, sir."

"Now, Mr. Hawkins, suppose your son bought land today and tried to pay for it from the products, do you believe they could do it?"

"Mr. Hawkins hesitated a bit. He saw that I had him. But he is honest and he fessed up. 'No, they couldn't,' was his reply."

"Now, if land has gotten out of reach of the present generation, what will become of the young of succeeding generations? Our forefathers fought and died that this land might be free from foreign rule. Yet, will you believe it if I tell you that forty-two foreigners own more acres in the United States than there are in five of our oldest states? These forty-two foreigners—lords, dukes, princes, counts and no-counts—own, in round numbers, twenty-two million acres of our land. Excuse me for calling it ours, but I have listened to politicians so much that it is almost impossible to sometimes avoid misstatements. The states of Connecticut, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, Rhode Island and Vermont combined contain \$600,000 acres less than these foreign parasites own. The Baron of Tweeddale is the largest holder of United States soil. He holds title to 1,750,000 acres."

"Think of it! One man—a non-resident—holding title to enough land to approximately give a home of 100 acres to every family in this judicial circuit, composed of Cape Girardeau, Scott, Mississippi, New Madrid and Pemiscot counties! But we wouldn't pay tribute to foreign nobles—oh, no!"

"But let us look near home. In the west the government—the people—have yet much land, although the land pirates, through the connivance with government officials,

have stolen millions of acres of it. Perhaps some of you read about the land frauds that were exposed by Secretary Hitchcock, of St. Louis. There was a system of robbery going on to which Mr. Hitchcock's subordinates were parties. Mr. Hitchcock discovered something wrong and instituted an investigation. The result was that whole-sale indictments followed and several government officials, senators and congressmen were caught in the net. United States Senator Mitchell, of Oregon, committed suicide."

"The most remarkable thing about it all was that these thieves had sufficient pull to force Mr. Hitchcock out of Mr. Roosevelt's cabinet. Anyway, he quit. And practically all the big pirates were 'vindicated' in the federal courts—including present United States Senator Borah, who so vigorously tried to hang three innocent working men in Idaho—Moyer, Haywood and Pettibone."

No doubt many of you are familiar with the name of Dr. Wm. Preston Hill, a St. Louis millionaire. He was chairman of the Referendum League last year and it was probably due to his efforts that the initiative and referendum amendment to the constitution was adopted last fall. He is a very wealthy man, yet his heart is in the right place. I will read to you what Dr. Hill has to say about the land frauds of the west:

"So many wealthy men of the West were indicted and implicated along with these officials," says Mr. Hill, "that it would make a roll-call of nearly all who have secured large holdings of fertile lands in the Western States. In fact, Secretary of the Interior Hitchcock has asserted that the cases in which titles to any government lands were obtained honestly were the exception and not the rule. The operations of one land grafter and swindler, John A. Benson, alone would fill a large-sized volume and as large a one would be required to detail the operations of another swindler, Frederick A. Hyde."

"As a result of these crimes, one man, Henry Miller, has concentrated in himself the ownership of 14,639,200 acres of land in California, Oregon and Nevada, or 22,717 1/2 square miles, a territory as large as the four states of New Hampshire, Massachusetts, Connecticut and Delaware combined. A few men own 17,000,000 acres in the Sacramento Valley, and these are only a few of the vast estates built up by fraud and crime all over the West. In the Northwest another huge estate of millions of acres, comprising practically a monopoly of all our most valuable timber lands from which the United States must draw its supply of lumber in the future, has been likewise built up, by the same crimes, in the hands of one man, Frederick Weyerhaeuser, who is said to be richer even than John D. Rockefeller. In Wyoming gigantic land frauds were discovered, which involved millions' worth of most valuable coal lands in process of being stolen by leading and prominent citizens. In Oklahoma and the Indian Territory the oil fields were similarly looted from the people."

"This little pamphlet I have written by Dr. Hill. He wrote it in reply to Father Phelan, a well-known Catholic priest. The ministry of all denominations seems especially active in defending capitalism just now. And it's a big job they have undertaken. In a public address in St. Louis Father Phelan used this language:

"Today the laboring man will tell you that the capitalists are thieves; that all men who have property own it dishonestly; that property is robbery; that only labor makes wealth; and that therefore the wealth of the world should be the exclusive heritage of the men who toil with their hands."

"* Today the wealth of the world, except in rare instances of sudden enrichment, is the result of industry, of frugality, of temperance, of self-restraint or superior manhood!"

"Answering Father Phelan Dr. Hill relates, in addition to the land frauds, the many crimes of Standard Oil, of the railroads, of insurance companies, etc. In many instances he cites court records to prove them guilty of bribery, theft, swindling, perjury, arson and even murder. Then he concludes: 'In the face of these well-known and proven facts, what becomes of Father Phelan's assertion that the wealth of this country has been accumulated by men who are examples of frugality, sobriety and virtue?'

"In conclusion I want to call your attention to a very important

fact—the fact that no one can be found who will, over his signature, attempt a fair and intelligent refutation of what I say. I have repeatedly offered free space and fair treatment to any who wish to attempt it. My critics cannot argue that I am unworthy of notice for they have used up pages of space under assumed names, in abusing me. They can say what they please about me and I have no recourse. I have no protection under the law—although I am forced to pay taxes under the assumption that I have. On the other hand, if I should say anything about them that even approached a libel, they would set their machinery of 'justice' in motion under a full head of steam."

"To give you an idea what sort of argument (?) they use to refute my statements, I notice in a St. Louis paper that Assessor Buck, in his bushwhacker articles in the Benton organ, accused me of shooting craps with the niggers on grave yard hill above Commerce. In all my life I have never shot craps with any person—white or black. In my younger days I was quite an expert at many games—billiards, pool, poker, seven-up, euchre, pinochle and sixty-six—but I know nothing about craps. I know that the game is played with dice, and that is all I know about it. I do not know how to count it, nor when one wins or loses. But the oracles of the ring have repeated this yarn so long and often until, no doubt, they believe it. You will remember that in January I very foolishly wasted an evening of your and my time in discussing Mr. Buck's stuff, and concluded by saying that 'Mr. Buck may come with his spiffs, fireworks etc, but he will never attempt an intelligent reply to anything I have said.' And he didn't. He sneaked and began barking up another tree."

"But what would it have to do with what I have been telling you—even though I had shot craps with the negroes? Would it prove that private land monopoly is right or that the private ownership of the means of production and transportation is right? My quarrel is not with individuals, but with an unjust system. My individuality, nor the individuality of anyone else, has nothing to do with it. But they want to shift the scenery on the stage and change the play to one of their old time mud-slinging contests. In such a contest I concede to them the honors of victory without entering upon it. But if they care for an intelligent discussion I will meet them fairly and openly—singly or in groups."

"I almost feel sorry for Mr. Buck. It is not at all unreasonable to suspect that he is the victim of 'the interests.' I believe him to be an honest man that would not knowingly do wrong in public office, nor permit himself to be 'used.' Such a man is not desirable to the oligarchy of wealth of this county—especially for assessor. It may be that they dangled before him some of the more lucrative jobs of collector, recorder or county clerk that will be open next year in order to get him out of the way of their man for assessor last fall. I do not know. No one on the outside can tell what this crowd is scheming to do until after it is done. And even then they cover their tracks so well that to trace the individual operators is next to impossible. But now they have Mr. Buck raking their chestnuts out of the fire and thereby digging his own political grave."

The first bill in the Missouri legislature favorable to labor was up for passage last week and—didn't pass. It was a bill compelling employers of labor in factories to pay at least once every seven days. Under the present system of paying only once a month the employees are forced to buy on credit and, in most cases, assign their pay to the merchants. This allows the merchants to charge unreasonable prices for supplies. And your 'friends of labor' at Jefferson City say this is right. Twenty members of the legislature refused to vote either way. Representative Wade voted for the measure."

The city election is approaching and the politicians and newspapers of St. Louis are again actively building that free bridge across the Mississippi that the people bonded themselves to build several years ago. They have now gone so far as to agree upon the site. That ought to be sufficient to fool the election they will be able to discover many reasons why some other site would be better—and then forget about it."

GOT IT AT LAST

In Phelps county the Missouri Sharpshooter has been making war on the grafters. Phelps county is Democratic and has a well-developed ring just as we have. The money of the tax-payers is all consumed by paper-suckers. There, as here, the printing graft is no small item. The county printing was not let to the lowest bidder, and all jobs are stationery printing, was let to favorites—notwithstanding the fact that this is in direct violation of law. But the Sharpshooter kept pounding away until at last it got the people woke up. In its last issue appears the following:

"The county court has ordered all the county stationery printing up to January 1, 1911 to the lowest bidder. The one getting it is required to make bond to the county in the sum of \$500 for the faithful performance of the service according to specifications. That's business."

Of course it is business—and it is the law. But what do a bunch of political grafters care for either business or law? If these men were paying for the printing out of their own pockets they would certainly go about getting it done as cheap as possible—and then beg for a discount for cash. But so long as the people foot the bills, what do they care? The Sharpshooter goes on:

"The letting of the county printing to the lowest bidder is another victory for the Sharpshooter. The Sharp Shooter has been working nine years to get it that way and at last public opinion has become so strong for it that a county court cannot be elected until they make that pledge. It will be a saving of thousands of dollars to the tax-payers."

Well, the people are waking up some in Scott county. It may be that within a few years they will get wise enough to have a say in their own affairs."

THE SOUTHEAST

The curators of our state university are asking the legislature to accept a benefit from the Carnegie fund of \$16,000,000 for superannuated school teachers. When the millionaires have gained control of our educational institutions they will have gone a long way towards the goal they hope ultimately to reach, and that is the absolute domination of this country by the capitalists. If the teachers in our higher schools of learning—and it is they who are to get the benefit of the Carnegie fund—are placed under obligation to the country's money bags what will it mean? You see what it means in the case of the University of Chicago, of which Rockefeller is the patron saint. No teacher of political economy is allowed in that school who teaches his pupils ideas of consumerism and government inimical to the interests of men of the Rockefeller and Carnegie class. President Jesse, who recently retired from the head of the state university, is now receiving a pension of \$6,000 a year from Carnegie's millions. Do Missourians want to place the men in charge of their university under obligations to the Carnegies, Rockefellers, et al? When that is done, our Missouri youth will also be brought under the influence of the same fellows. Still it is said of Prof. Hill, the new president of the university, the ex-president of the 'Y. M. C. A.' and even churches, in other parts of the country are falling into the hands of the moneyed aristocrats. Let it never be said of our Missouri schools that their teachers are under the influence of millionaires and no longer in touch with the masses of the people—Jackson, Cash, Cook."

Carthageville Democrat.—Two negro tramps from St. Louis went to sleep in the front gate at Hoxly last Sunday night. The platform of the chute is elevated about 30 feet above the ground. One of the negroes awoke some time in the night and forgetting that he was above the earth, walked off and fell to the ground. He broke one arm and his jaw-bone. The railroad company has placed him in the care of their physician."

Campbell Citizen.—Numbers of towns in Arkansas, Tennessee and Kentucky were visited by terrific rain and hail storms, while we were drenched Tuesday morning. Fisher, Ark., Poinsett county, was wiped from the face of the earth and six killed and 60 injured. Only one house left in the little town. Woodruff county suffered considerably; 30 houses destroyed; 8 persons killed, and many hurt."

NOTHING DOING.

Misses—Alice, I saw the milkman kiss you this morning. Hereafter I shall go out after the milk myself."

Servant—It won't do you no good, ma'am; he promised not to kiss any other woman but me.—Harper's Weekly.

At an evening party they were playing a game which consisted of everybody in the room making a face, and the one making the worst face was awarded a prize. They all did their level best, and then a gentleman went up to one of the ladies and said:

"Well, madam, I think you have won the prize."

"Oh," she said, "I wasn't playing!"—Montreal Star.

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LINCOLN AND GOVERNMENT.

Many Socialists will find in Lincoln enough to satisfy all their claims.

Unquestionably some of Lincoln's utterances are contradictory. Some are descriptive. In his descriptive sentences he states the relation between labor and capital in his time, a condition which he could hardly have attributed to future as representative of his ideal."

But whenever Lincoln expresses his ideal we find his standards to be fairly accurately the Socialist position."

Take, for instance, the following three quotations:

"I am for the people of the whole nation doing just as they please in all matters which concern the whole nation; for those of each part doing just as they choose in all matters which concern no other part; and for each individual doing just as he chooses in all matters which concern nobody else."

"This is essentially a people's contest. On the side of the Union it is a struggle for maintaining in the world that form and substance of government whose leading object is to elevate the condition of men—to lift artificial weights from all shoulders, to clear the paths of laudable pursuit for all; to afford all an unfettered start, and a fair chance in the race of life."

"The legitimate object of government is to do for a community of people whatever they need to have done, but cannot do at all, or cannot do so well, for themselves, in their separate and individual capacities. In all that the people can individually do as well for themselves, government ought not to interfere."

Most of us would consider that these declarations of Lincoln express accurately the Socialist conception of government."

The first provides for perfect liberty, not for liberty which enables one man to oppress another."

The second statement is in entire opposition to that view of government which sets forth laissez faire as an ideal. It is a declaration of policy which gives authority for the extension of government in any direction which is necessary to safeguard the right of all to a fair chance in the race of life. What more does any Socialist ask?"

The third is, perhaps, as concise a statement as has ever been made of the ideal of Socialist politics. Spoken in Lincoln's time, when the world was enmeshed in the very opposite political faith, it is, perhaps, Lincoln's most revolutionary statement. There is nothing in it that lays a single obstacle in the path of Socialism."

But Lincoln went further. He carried his politics into the field of economics.

He drew no hard and fast lines between those two fields of activity. He was not content to have a people's government look quietly upon the exploitation and robbery of workingmen."

He urged the necessity for the government to interfere, to insist upon the rights of labor, and he said with absolute distinctness that a worthy object of any good government is to secure to each laborer the whole product of his labor, or as many as possible."

These words of Lincoln are worth thinking over. They embody in remarkably simple language a revolutionary political and economic philosophy."

The capitalist newspapers, have devoted a day to Lincoln, less space than they give to a good scandal story. But to us he is worth more than a day's devotion. For Lincoln really belongs to us."

Hollinger county votes on local option March 16. The county is now dry and the Marble Hill Press says: "With the county in better condition, morally and financially, bridges built, a large fund expended on the roads and for the protection and preservation of our public buildings and grounds, and last but by no means least, a well-appointed jail without a boarder, we fail to discover the shadow, even of a reason for a change from present conditions."

TOWNSHIP MEETINGS.

The Morley township teachers will meet at Morley Saturday, March 6, 1906. The Sylvania township teachers will meet at Oran Saturday, March 13, 1906. All the teachers of the townships are expected to be present. Two chapters of the Reading Circle Book will be taken up at each place. Other important school topics.

Respectfully,
B. Hugh Smith.

DOUBTFUL COMPLIMENT

At an evening party they were playing a game which consisted of everybody in the room making a face, and the one making the worst face was awarded a prize. They all did their level best, and then a gentleman went up to one of the ladies and said:

"Well, madam, I think you have won the prize."

"Oh," she said, "I wasn't playing!"—Montreal Star.

COUNTY COURT DOINGS.

County court met Monday in adjourned term with Judges Bugg, Myers and Thomas present and transacted the following business:

Paid jurors for April term—A. Weber, Ambrose Monds, Wm. Canham, Chas. Gruffy, Commerce; Adam Schaefer, Mike Dumberger, Adam Essner, John Blattel, Morrisland, Elmer Wilshaw, Sam Potts, James J. P. Johnson, Emory Matthews, Richards, Frank McGinnis, Nick Schott, Sylvania; Tom Hines, Jim Austin, Sandy Woods, C. P. Harris, John Vaughn, Morley; Henry Elshingen, Jacob Koelzer, George Walter, Levi Wooley, Kelson, John English, Levi Welch, Tawapatty.

Allowances for roads: P. H. Boyce Mer. Co., fencing, \$112.72; Joe Hutchinson, dist. 18, \$41; J. P. Norris, special commissioner, \$100; R. Cannon, material, \$2; \$50 for graveling hill in front of Anton LeGrand's; \$150 to be used on road leading north from Benton.

Other allowances: Anton LeGrand, repairs on public buildings, \$13; E. E. Brown, reimbursed for guaranteeing doctor's bill in five small box cases, \$38.50; Geo. D. Bernard, stationary, \$63.85; Kicker, stationary, \$25.50; Joel Dunn, civil engineer, \$149.62.

Superintendent of county farm ordered to have buildings painted. Order of court made at February term, 1905, charging for water in Benton set aside and parties relieved from paying past tax.

Casper Ebert allowed \$1.35 erroneous assessment and Kelo telephone Co. relieved of double assessment.

In matter of Drainage district 4, ordered set aside, and in the matter of drain district 5, bonds ordered reissued and clerk to give notice of resale.

In drain districts 4 and 5 contractors allowed further time.

\$83 appropriated to improve New Hamburg and Chaffee road.

Collector makes annual settlement for taxes collected in 1905. Geo. T. Boston, of Morley township, ordered to turn justice of the peace outfit over to C. D. M. Garton.

Chas. Rahmiller declined to accept job of road boss and Dennis Diebold appointed.

Mortgage against Geo. T. Boston ordered foreclosed.

Sheriff Guber appointed special commissioner to install a lighting system in court house—must not exceed \$125.

Road petitioned by Herman Minsback et al established and Jeff Siskard, J. W. Blocker and August Heeb appointed commissioners to assess damages.

Sheriff Guber appointed commissioner to build new sheriff's residence and \$2,000 appropriated.

Court adjourned Tuesday evening.

THE FOURTH DEATH.

Jefferson City, Feb. 27.—Representative E. Kerr, Republican, of Hickory County, died here Saturday morning at 2:30 o'clock. This is the fourth among the House members to die since the election in November.

His home was in Elktion, and the body will be taken there Sunday. It would now be impossible for the Republicans to pass any straight party resolution in the House.

Governor Hallowell ordered an election held in Hickory County on March 16, for the purpose of naming a successor to Representative Kerr. Kerr had been dead about eight hours when the election was called. Democrats say this sudden action was without precedent. Senator McAllister said:

"That's strenuous activity."

NEARLY A CATASTROPHE.

Angeleno invited her young man to the swimming pool. Everything passed off harmoniously until Angeleno's seven-year-old brother broke the blissful silence by exclaiming:

"Oh, ma, you oughter seen Mr. Lighted the other night when he called to take Agie to the drill. He looked so nice sittin' 'longside of her with his arm—"

"Fred!" screamed the maiden, whose face began to assume the color of a well done crab, quickly placing her hand over the boys mouth.

"Ver oughter seen him," continued the persistent informant, after gaining his breath and the embarrassed girl's hand was removed:

"He had his arm—"

"Freddie!" shouted the mother, as in her frantic attempt to reach the boy's auricular appendage, she upset the contents of the teapot in Mr. Lighted's lap, making numerous Prussian war maps over his new lavender trousers.

"I was just going to say," the half-frightened boy pleaded, between a cry and an injured whine, "he had his arm—"

"You boy!" thundered the father, "get out!"

"And the boy did so, exclaiming as he waltzed:

"I was only going to say Mr. Lighted had his army clothes on; and I leave it to him if he didn't."

Boost the Kicker for March! Let's beat March of last year by 20